

[1843?]
Toronto Athenæum

Prospectus of an Institution,

TO BE CALLED

"THE ATHENÆUM,"

A GENERAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LITERATURE AND SCIENCE.



IT IS PROPOSED to establish in Toronto an Institution under the above title, in which the various Literary and Scientific objects common to such Associations may be concentrated. For this purpose, the LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TORONTO, with the sanction and approbation of many eminent persons, has adopted a Provisional Code of Laws, considered to be well calculated for the end in view, and which is now submitted to the Citizens of Toronto, for their consideration.

As will be seen by the GENERAL LAWS hereto attached, the Institution is intended to comprise, in the first place, a LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM, and PUBLIC LECTURES, open to all Subscribers of 10s. annually, and an Entrance Fee of 5s.; and secondly, SECTIONS or CLASSES, formed by the voluntary union of any number of members for any Literary or Scientific purpose: subjects connected with politics or religion being carefully excluded. Among the sectional features already in contemplation, may be mentioned Literary Discussion, a Natural Philosophy Class, a Chess Club, Music Classes,—besides others of an Educational Character, such as Mathematics, Classics, &c. Several offers from competent parties, to conduct those Classes, have been already received. The government and expenditure of all the various Sections to be vested in themselves, with power to elect officers, employ Professors, admit or exclude members, &c. &c., subject only to the approval of the Council of the Institute.

The PUBLIC LECTURES are intended to be of the highest attainable character, embracing every department of *Belles Lettres*, and *The Arts and Sciences*; it is believed that a fitting opportunity is alone needed, to secure to the City the services of highly competent men, and thus obtain for her youth the most solid advantages.

The establishment of a MUSEUM, for the reception of Geological and other Natural Productions of the Province, is also one of the principal objects of the Institution; that Toronto may keep pace with the intelligence of the age, and no longer labour under the reproach of possessing nothing which can interest the man of science or the tourist.

That all classes in Toronto have an interest in the success of such an Institution, must be obvious at once. The rich—because it will add to the City's prosperity, her peace, her advancement in every respect; the merchant—because, in addition to the above reasons, it will provide useful and laudable recreation for those in whom he must repose confidence; the tradesman and the mechanic—because it will open to them privileges such as the wealthiest may covet: and all ranks in common, because it will afford an opportunity of well regulated intercourse, which will tend to weaken prejudice, and to create unanimity and good feeling.

As in order to make any effectual progress in establishing "The Athenæum," it is highly desirable that a building be procured as early as possible, and as such building may be rendered equally serviceable for the meetings of National and other Societies of a non-political character, the co-operation of those bodies is particularly requested. A slight effort on their part, and on that of the Public generally, would ensure success, and it is earnestly hoped that that effort will be made. Lists will be distributed generally throughout the City, to be filled up with the names and addresses of persons willing to aid the Institution, by subscription or otherwise; and when complete, may be forwarded (with any other communication), to any of the following Gentlemen, officers of the Literary and Historical Society:—F. W. BARRON, Esq. B.A., Principal U.C.C., *President*; Rev. H. SCADDING, M.A., J. H. CAMERON, Esq., and Mr. S. THOMPSON, *Vice-Presidents*; Messrs. THOS. CHAMPION, J. F. SAXON, H. SCOBIE, A. G. MACDONELL, and J. COCKBURN, *Committee of Management*; Mr. Wm. HENDERSON, *Treasurer*; and Mr. Geo. WILLIAMS, *Secretary*.

GENERAL LAWS.

Whereas it is desirable that an Institution be established, in Toronto, for the advancement of Literature and Science, by the formation of a Library and Museum, and the support of Public Lectures:

ARTICLE I.—Such Institution shall be called "THE ATHENÆUM."

II.—Quarterly meetings of the Institution shall take place on the second Thursday in January, April, July, and October, respectively. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum.

III.—The Officers of the Institution shall consist of a President, several Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Secretary, and five Committee-men, who, together with the Chairman and Treasurer of each Section containing not less than fifty members, shall constitute the Council, with power to fill up vacancies, and to declare any office vacant, the holder of which shall have been absent from the Council for three successive meetings; in both cases subject to the approbation of the next quarterly meeting. The officers shall continue to hold their offices until their successors have been appointed. Three to form a quorum.

IV.—The officers of the Institution shall be chosen at the Annual Meeting in January, by a majority of members present, from lists prepared as follows: each member may hand in to the Secretary, not less than seven days before the election, a list of candidates to be balloted for as officers for the ensuing year; such lists to be arranged by the Council, and placed in a conspicuous situation at the Annual Meeting; in case such general list shall not contain at least two candidates for each office, the Council shall fill them up to that number; no votes shall be admitted for candidates not contained in such published list. The election to be determined by a written paper handed to the scrutineers by each member, containing the name of the candidate for whom he tenders his vote. The chairman to appoint scrutineers.

V.—The President, or senior Vice-President present, to preside at all meetings, or in their absence the meeting to elect a chairman.

VI.—The chairman to have a casting vote, in case of an equality of suffrages; and to sign the minutes of each meeting.

VII.—No alteration in the Laws of the Society shall be made without previous notice, at the preceding quarterly meeting; nor shall any alteration or suspension of the Laws take place unless three-fourths of the members present concur therein.

VIII.—The Entrance Fee to the Institution shall be five shillings, and the annual subscription ten shillings, open to all who wish to become members; youths under eighteen may become members, by paying half the usual fees, but shall not be entitled to vote on any question; members of existing societies which may join this, shall be admitted without payment of any entrance fee, and the amount they may have paid in advance in their own society shall be deducted from their annual subscription for the current year.

IX.—All entrance fees and donations in money shall be invested in proper public securities, under the direction of the Council, to form a fund for the acquisition of an appropriate building.

X.—Any number of members shall have the power, under the sanction of the Council, to form themselves into a Section for any literary or scientific purpose they may desire (except it be connected with Religion or Politics) and shall be entitled to the use of rooms and other accommodations belonging to the Institution, when not previously engaged; on condition of their providing for the expenses of their own section; and shall appoint from their own number a chairman, treasurer, secretary, and committee, to manage their affairs; and shall make their own by-laws, which until disallowed by the Council, shall be of the same force and effect, as far as they are concerned, as the other Laws of the Institution.

XI.—The rules of the Library and Reading Room shall be drawn up by the Council; and shall remain in force unless disallowed by the Institution at its next quarterly meeting.

XII.—The Council shall meet monthly, at such time and place as they shall appoint at their previous meeting, and shall manage the affairs of the Institution, subject to the approval of the next quarterly meeting.

XIII.—The Treasurer shall collect the Entrance Fees and Subscriptions; and shall give in an annual statement of the finances, audited by the Council at the Annual Meeting. He shall also make all payments to the order of the Council only, and keep regular accounts of the same, and of the receipts, which shall at any time be open to the inspection of the Council at their monthly meetings, or of any member thereof.

XIV.—The Secretary shall keep a Record of the proceedings of the Institution, with a correct List of Members; he shall at every meeting read the minutes of the previous meeting, conduct the correspon-

no longer members, unless by re-admission.

XVII.—The Library and Reading Room to be open to all members, subject to the rules to be appointed by the Council. The Lectures to be open to all members, and also to the Public by ticket, on such conditions as the Council shall appoint; each ticket to admit also a lady. The Museum to be open to the Public with no other restriction than personal introduction by a member.

XVIII.—Persons presenting a donation of £10. in money, books, or philosophical apparatus, to be Members for Life.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Donations.</i>